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Massenburg



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MASSENBURG

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EXTRACT FROM A TOURIST'S JOURNAL

The Massenburg Homestead.

Within fifty yards of the site of the mansion, once the abode of Virginia chivalry and hospitality may be seen the family burial ground, now thickly overgrown with a dense mass of bamboo and tangled undergrowth. It is unguarded by enclosure of any kind; but the thickly set marble tablets plainly indicate the spot as that of the family burial place. Brushing away the briars and the moss we were able to decipher the following inscriptions viz: -

Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth wife of Jno. Whiddon, died 1757 aged 20 years.

Sacred to the memory of Mrs. Mary Coal died July 29th, 1792 aged 54 years.

Sacred to the memory of John W. Massenburg born July 12th, 1789 died January 23rd, 1825.

In memory of Mr. John Whiddon born 19th Sept. 1730 died 14th April 1796 aged 65 years.

Mother and five daughters.

In memory of John Peters died October 7th 1796 aged 35 years.  
Oh, ye his friends mourn not his early fate  
His life was short but merit more who can  
He lived and died a worthy man.

In memory of Elizabeth Tucker Peters died September 25th, 1795 aged 2 years and 2 months.

In memory of Mrs. Ann Gatewood died June 29th, 1816 (wife of Thos. Gatewood) aged 32 years. Also their son Thos. W. Gatewood died July 26th, 1810.

In memory of Wm. W. Cunningham obit July 29th 1807 aged 21 years.

In memory of Mrs. Ann Camp, wife of John Camp and daughter of John and Mary Whiddon died 31st May 1816 aged 47 years.

Sacred to the memory of Miss Martha C. Camp daughter of Jno. N. Camp and Ann his wife who departed this life Oct. 12, 1816 aged 17 years.

In memory of Thos. Coleman McCandlish died July 22, 1819 aged 23 months.

The following inscription can be seen: Wm. C. Wilson, N.C.C.S.B.C. Elenor Camp. Ann Elizabeth McCandlish.

Four or perhaps more headstones are to be seen but the characters are unintelligible by reason of age and decay.



The vault is in a wonderful state of preservation. It contains the remains of the old sire perhaps.

It is built of brick, sunk into the earth to the depth of four feet, and is arched two feet above the ground. It is about seven feet in length and three and a half in width.

The bones of the occupant and fragments of a coffin in good state of preservation can be seen through an aperture in one end of the vault.

The letters AE traced in brass headed tacks corroded by the touch of time can be plainly seen."

Copied from the Norfolk Journal by C. H. Kennedy into this book for my cousin John Shepherd.

The foregoing was written on the fly leaves of a little book entitled "Fort LaFayette Life" by a cousin, Chas. H. Kennedy, for John Whiddon deCamp Shepherd (your uncle John) and given to him because he had Whiddon in his name - about 1882 - when John was about 11 years old. This Charles Kennedy was a connection of your great grand-mother Shepherd. He was an admiral in the U. S. Navy - but resigned and joined the Confederate Navy in the Civil War.

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John thought there might be something of interest for you in your geneological research about the Whiddon's and Massenburgs, but I thought it likely you had all this information.





"MASSENBURG - (WHIDDON)  
- - - - -

Elizabeth City County, Virginia, unnumbered Book, page 144, In 1717 William Loyall and Elizabeth his wife for the love and affection to my loving brother John Massenburgh and his wife one-half more whereon I now dwell in the town of Hampton.  
Witnessess: Nathan Parker, Abra: Mitchell.

Elizabeth City County, Virginia, unnumbered Book, page 64, On the 20 February 1738 Thomas and Elizabeth Massenburg his wife of Hampton sold a lot on King Street to Mary Frasey.

Elizabeth City County, Virginia, unnumbered Book, page 305. In 1748 is recorded the Inventory of the estate of Thomas Massenburg.

Norfolk County, Virginia, Book "I" page 192, on 9 November 1748, proved at Court 18 January 1750 is the will of John Whiddon, naming his daughter Mary Herbert, wife of Marcom Herbert; daughter Martha Whiddon, land I bought of William Whiddon called "Pedley's" ("G" 66) wife is Abigail (perhaps Cawson)

Elizabeth City County, Virginia, D. B. "E", page 304, In 1761, Josiah Massenburg purchased 127 acres of land from Daniel Stringer.

Same book, page 364, In 1762, Josiah Massenburg purchased from Mary King, 150 acres on both sides of the Main Road from Hampton to York, adjoining the lands of Thomas Kerby, Judith Herbert, and Henry King.

Norfolk County, Virginia, D. B. 21 Page 240, In 1764 John Whiddon bought a lot in Portsmouth at Court and London Streets from Thomas Veale and Bethia, his wife.

Elizabeth City County, Virginia, D. B. "F", page 223, In 1768, Josiah Massenburg and wife Sarah sell to John Allan 60 acres by Thomas Herbert and Mrs. Judith Herbert and Capt. Henry King, NW of Main Road.

Norfolk County, Virginia, D. B. 19, page 94, James Baker is bound to John Whiddon to learn the Art and Mystery of a Shipwright.

John Whiddon  
(Received land from father in 1774)

William Widdon

John Widdin Married 1772

Ann Herbert died 1796

Children:

Elizabeth Cunningham

Mary Brodie

Martha Massenburg Born 1762

Ann Peters born CA 1765



"MASSENBURG" - (WHIDDON)  
- - - - -

Norfolk County, Virginia, Will Book 3, Page 176, proved July 18, 1796, is the will of John Whiddon. In this will he names his daughter Elizabeth Cunningham; daughter Mary Brawdy (Brodie); to daughter Martha Massenburg my old plantation being the land my father gave me by will; likewise fourteen acres of land called Pedey's, 2 acres or 3 acres called Catrites's landing, part of the land I purchased of Samuel Smith, likewise land I purchased of Daniel Rhodes, likewise 50 acres of Samuel Wallis called Frisels; to daughter Ann Peters the plantation where I now live except the place called raw gully point I have given to my daughter Elizabeth, and reserving to my wife Mary for life interest, then daughter Ann Peters to have and her heirs forever... to daughters Ann and Martha, each 90 ... Daughters Elizabeth, Mary, Martha, Ann... (Son evidently had their portion by deed. Also I take it, the sequence in names denotes priority of birth).

Norfolk County, Virginia, D. B. 37, page 115, In 1797, Martha Massenburg of Norfolk County sells to Cornelius Nash land devised to Martha by her late father John Whiddon. Witnessess are Samuel Hatton, Mary Whiddon, Mary Brodie, Solomon Brown.

Norfolk City, Virginia, D. B. 10, page 380; Thomas West, executor of Josiah Massenburg Jr., deceased, Receipt dated January 20, 1797, for four slaves, George, Daniel, Milly and Tom, bought by Mrs. Martha Massenburg to settle estate of Josiah Massenburg Jr. Mary Brodie as witness proves receipt at Hustings Court 29 October, 1807.

Elizabeth City County, Virginia, D. B. 12, page 525, In 1806, Josiah Massenburg sold land to James Parker.

Norfolk County, Virginia, D. B. 48, page 246, In 1820 Edwin Walke and wife Sarah of Princess Anne County sell to John Whiddon Massenburg of Norfolk County, Virginia, certain acres . . . .

Norfolk County, Virginia Will Book 5, page 175, In October 1825, John W. Massenburg makes a will devising all to his mother Martha Massenburg. This will was proved at Court March 21, 1826.

Norfolk County, Virginia, D. B. 56 page 401, Recorded in 1831, is a deed made by Martha Massenburg to Brodie heir to Maximilian Herbert for land she sold Herbert in 1817 but deed had never been acknowledged for record.

Norfolk County, Virginia, D. B. 56, page 467, In 1831, Martha Massenburg of the Borough of Norfolk, Virginia sells to Tatem certain acres on the Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River, bounded by Tatem and Indian Creek, said tract conveyed in deed from Cornelius Nash and Sukey his wife to Edwin Walke and Sarah his wife in 1816; distinguished on plat by letter "C", and they in 1819 sold to John Whiddon Massenburg, who by will in 1825 devised same to his mother Martha Massenburg.





"MASSENBURG" - (WHIDDON)

- - - - -

Martha Whiddon Massenburg, age 77        died 1839  
Married (Josiah - son of Josiah whose wife is Sarah, Josiah is son of  
John, wife Barbury, died 1748 of Eliz. Co. son of 1717, John mentioned)  
Josiah Massenburg Jr. died 1797, resident of Warrick Co.

Children:

John W. Massenburg  
(Of age in 1820) died 1825  
Sarah Walke        M. Edwin

Sarah Walk  
Daughter Martha Ann Walk  
Sarah Walke  
Susan M. Blow



Extract from a Tourist's Journal.

The Massenburg Homestead

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aged 20 years.

Sacred to the memory of  
Mrs. Mary Coal died July 29<sup>th</sup> 1792  
aged 54 years

(over)





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In memory of Mrs. Ann Gatewood  
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aged 32 years. also their son  
Thos. W. Gatewood died July 26<sup>th</sup> 1810



In memory of Wm W. Penningham  
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This Charles <sup>your</sup> Kennedy was a connection of great grand-uncle Shepherd - He was an admiral in the U. S. Navy - but resigned and joined the Confederate Navy in the civil war.

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